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Atty. Dkt. No. 040302-0592

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Takeshi KIMURA et al.
Title: METHOD AND VEHICLE REACTING TO THE
DETECTION OF AN IN-PATH OBSTACLE
Appl. No.: 10/591,467
International 03/02/2005
Filing Date:
371(c) Date: 09/01/2006
Examiner: Unassigned
Art Unit: 3661
Confirmation 1871
Number:

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 CFR §1.56

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Submitted herewith on Form PTO/SB/08 is a listing of documents known to Applicants in order to comply with Applicants' duty of disclosure pursuant to 37 CFR §1.56.

A copy of each non-U.S. patent document and each non-patent document is being submitted to comply with the provisions of 37 CFR §1.97 and §1.98.

The submission of any document herewith, which is not a statutory bar, is not intended as an admission that such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application or that such document is considered material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR §1.56(b). Applicants do not waive any rights to take any action which would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove as a competent reference any document which is determined to be a *prima facie* art reference against the claims of the present application.

TIMING OF THE DISCLOSURE

The listed documents are being submitted in compliance with 37 CFR §1.97(b), before the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits.

RELEVANCE OF EACH DOCUMENT

In a counterpart Japanese application documents A3 and A4 were cited in an Office Action dated May 29, 2007, received by Applicants. According to an English translation of the Japanese Office Action obtained by Applicants' representative, the Japanese Patent Office made certain characterizations of the references. The disclosure of these characterizations should not be construed as an admission of or agreement to the opinions expressed in the Japanese Office Action. A copy of the Japanese Office Action and English language translation are attached herewith.

Document A5 discloses a safety device for a vehicle.

Documents A6 and A8 disclose an obstacle detector for a vehicle.

Document A7 discloses a travel control device for a vehicle.

Documents A1 and A3 belong to the same "patent family," whereby the English language document may assist the PTO in understanding the content of the non-English language document.

Documents A2 and A4 belong to the same "patent family," whereby the English language document may assist the PTO in understanding the content of the non-English language document.

Applicants wish to advise the Examiner that documents JP 2003-327018 and JP 2000-343980, cited in the Japanese Office Action, were previously submitted in an Information Disclosure Statement dated November 16, 2006, and are not provided herewith.

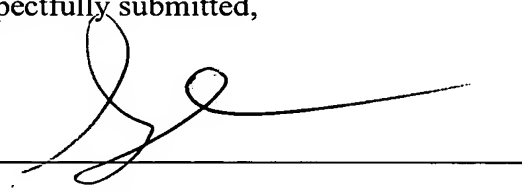
Unless otherwise indicated, no English translation is readily available (not considering machine-generated translations that may be freely available online, to both the Applicant and the PTO) for each of the non-English language documents. However, a commercially available English language abstract is provided herewith, where indicated on the attached Form PTO/SB/08. Inasmuch as Applicants have endeavored to provide at least one item that complies with the requirement for a "concise explanation of relevance" for each of the non-English language documents, each of these documents has been submitted in compliance with the PTO requirements and should be considered by the Examiner (37 CFR §1.97, §1.98 and MPEP §609).

Applicants respectfully request that each listed document be considered by the Examiner and be made of record in the present application and that an initialed copy of Form PTO/SB/08 be returned in accordance with MPEP §609.

Although Applicant believes that no fee is required for this Request, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for this Request to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,


By


Glenn Law
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 34,371

Date June 20, 2007

FOLEY & LARDNER LLP
Customer Number: 22428
Telephone: (202) 672-5426
Facsimile: (202) 672-5399

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Substitute for form 1449/PTO INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT Date Submitted: June 20, 2007 <i>(use as many sheets as necessary)</i>				Complete if Known	
Application Number		10/591,467			
Filing Date		03/02/2005			
First Named Inventor		Takeshi KIMURA			
Art Unit		3661			
Examiner Name		Unassigned			
Attorney Docket Number		040302-0592			
Sheet	1	of	1		

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code ² (if known)			
	A1	5,699,040	12-16-1997	MATSUDA	
	A2	5,995,037	11-30-1999	MATSUDA ET AL.	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Documents	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
		Country Code ³ Number ⁴ Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				
	A3	JP 9-145737 A	06-06-1997	HONDA MOTOR CO., LTD.		Abst.
	A4	JP 11-023705 A	01-29-1999	HONDA MOTOR CO., LTD.		Abst.
	A5	JP 7-057182 A	03-03-1995	MAZDA MOTOR CORP.		Abst.
	A6	JP 2004-038245 A	02-05-2004	NISSAN MOTOR CO., LTD.		Abst.
	A7	JP 2003-173500 A	06-20-2003	HONDA MOTOR CO., LTD.		Abst.
	A8	JP 8-161697 A	06-21-1996	MAZDA MOTOR CO., LTD.		Abst.

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS			
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.) date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T ⁶

Examiner Signature	Date Considered
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*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. 1 Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). 2 See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. 3 Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). 4 For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. 5 Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. 6 Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached. This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 (1-800-786-9199) and select option 2.